

8515 La Sala Grande NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

February 2, 2016

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Ms. Julia M. Baca, Bernalillo County Manager One Civic Plaza, NW, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 10111 Albuquerque, NM

Dear Ms. Baca:

The Albuquerque Asian American community plan to build a civil rights monument. We respectfully request this project be placed on the agenda of the Bernalillo County Commissioners meeting for discussion as the monument is tentatively to be located on County property.

Background: During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, people of color faced unfair and discriminatory treatment and had no or limited access to courts to protect their rights. It was different in New Mexico when the Territory of New Mexico Supreme Court ruled on one of the first land mark Asian case civil rights cases in America, the *Territory of New Mexico v. Yee Shun (1882)*. The Asian American community plan to build a monument to this precedent setting case to honor the citizens and the legal system of NM which recognized that 'justice and liberty for all" is a principle for all ages and people.

The Monument is tentatively to be located on the grounds of the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court, 400 Lomas, NW, and Albuquerque, NM. The project is funded by the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico with coordination of these funds by the County.

The Asian American community is very appreciative of the help and consul from Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins on this project. Additional guidance and support were provided from Commissioners Wayne Johnson and Lonnie Talbert.

Attached is additional information about the project and funding. Please contact me at <a href="mailto:nationofwong@comcast.net">nationofwong@comcast.net</a> 293-7347 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Síu G. Wong

Siu G Wong, OD, MPH

Chinese American Citizens Alliance, President , Albuquerque Lodge Asian American Association of New Mexico, Board Member